

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PLANT MATERIALS CENTER  
LOS LUNAS, NM

Planting Guide for Production of 'Barranco' Desertwillow (~~Chilopsis~~ linearis)

SEED PRODUCTION

1. Desertwillow is very prolific. A few plants will produce fruit their second growing season when grown from seed in beds. Fruit ripening is indeterminate; however, it is relatively persistent and collection can be delayed until after frost.
2. The dried seed pods can be flailed lightly and the broken pods screened, or hand picked out or the seed can be stripped out of the pods by hand.

PRODUCTION OF SEEDLINGS

1. For best growth, plants should be grown in a well-drained sandy loam. The seedbed can be prepared by plowing, disking and firming the surface with a roller or cultipacker.

Fumigation of seedbeds prior to planting is helpful to reduce weed competition and insect or disease problems. **CAUTION:** Be sure to handle and apply fumigants or any other chemicals according to labeled instructions.

Desertwillow seedlings are susceptible to damage from rabbits and must be protected if they are a problem.

2. Desertwillow seed requires no pregermination treatment. It can be planted after danger of frost has passed. Emergence should begin after about two weeks.

3. At the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center (PMC) the seed are sown in rows in beds. There are four rows, spaced 20 cm apart, in each bed. The beds are spaced for ease of access and cultivation. Seeding rates will vary according to ultimate use. At the Los Lunas PMC, approximately 300 seed or 4 grams of clean seed per meter, should yield 150 useable plants. Seeding rates this heavy will yield a higher percentage of uniform liner stock (40-70 cm tall) after two years. Lower seeding rates would yield larger, less uniform plants. The seed should be planted 1-1.5 cm deep.
4. The beds should be mulched to prevent excessive drying. An excelsior mulch with net backing is used at the Los Lunas PMC. This enables the mulch to be tacked down to prevent it from blowing. The beds should be sprinkle irrigated to provide uniform coverage. They should be sprinkled only enough to keep the seed zone moist to lessen the possibility of damping off.
5. Seedlings of Desertwillow are not fertilized at the Los Lunas PMC. If fertility is a Problem, fertilization should be guided by soil tests.
6. The plants should be dug when dormant, after one or two growing seasons.

Prepared by J. F. - 3/79